

**SHRI SANJAY GANDHI:** If he does not think that is what he meant, then, what is his stand? What is his real stand?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I will see to it.

**SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO:** There is constant break-down of thermal power stations throughout the country. According to the engineers one of the main reasons for this constant break-down is due to high ash content in the coal. There are some proposals for washing the coal before supplying to the generators to improve the power generation. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps he is taking to improve the supply of quality coal to the power generators and thereby improve the power generation.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** None at all.

**AN HON MEMBER:** You are not a Minister.

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** There have been some complaints about the quality of coal which is required for the power stations. There is the Coal Department and the Energy Department and they go into the matter and take such measures as are considered necessary.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next question. It is quite a good question. We have only 3 or 4 minutes.

Mr. Satish Prasad Singh.

### Price of Coal

\*4. **SHRI SATISH PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the price of coal is much higher for a common man;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to bring down the price of coal used by common man; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI):** (a) The pithead price of soft coke, used by the common man, is fixed by the Central Government and is Rs. 110/- per tonne. In some States the sale price of soft coke has been fixed by the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act after allowing for transport and other incidental charges.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. With a view improving availability of soft coke so as to bring down its price, the Department of Coal, in consultation with the Ministry of Railways, have drawn up a programme to increase the despatch of soft coke to various States. The State Governments have also been requested to streamline their distribution system. Close liaison is being maintained by Coal India with the State Governments for this purpose.

श्री सतीश प्रसाद सिंह : जो कोयला लोगों के खाना पकाने के काम में आता है या ईट पकाने के काम में आता है, उस की प्राइस ज्यादा है, उस को कम करने के लिए क्या मंत्री जी सोच रहे हैं ?

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** Sir, the distribution system is done by the State Governments. We have no hand there. We supply coal to them. We feel if enough availability is there, obviously coal price will go down. That is why we are increasing the quota and we are trying to reach with coal and soft coke to different States. We think the price will go down as soon as the soft coke reaches different States. Now, most of the transportation of coal is done by the Railways except to Eastern regions.

I am glad to inform the House that the Railway Minister has taken keen interest and now in no time we will be able to supply coal as demanded by the various States for their different regions. For example, in January we despatched coal to U.P. about 17,2 thousand tonnes. This time we are going to send them 31,5 thousand tonnes. I do not want to take the time of the House. We are working out the plans in consultation with the Railways.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Development of Hydro-Power Resources

\*5. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that so far only 18 per cent of the hydro-power resources have been developed in the country; and

(b) if so, what positive steps are being taken to accelerate hydro-power generation in the existing projects and in building up of new projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHR) A. H. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI):

(a). Yes, Sir,

(b). The following steps have been taken to accelerate hydro power generation:—

(i) Hydro-power project schemes with a total installed capacity of 10,610 MW are already under different stages of construction;

(ii) The Central Electricity Authority have undertaken a study to identify further possibilities for hydro-power generation. 55 new schemes with a capacity of 13,000 MW have already been identified. These projects will be

taken up for execution in a phased manner;

(iii) With a view to increasing the hydro component in the power plan, the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation have been established in the Central Sector, for taking up the execution of suitable projects, and thus supplementing the efforts of the States in this regard; and

(iv) Serious attention is also being paid to improve the methods of construction, with a view to executing projects within the shortest possible time-frame.

प्रेस आयोग को पुनर्गठित करने का प्रस्ताव

\*6 श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी :

श्री लक्ष्मण मलिक :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार प्रेम आयोग को पुनर्गठित करने का है; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो कब तक और उमकी मुख्य-मध्य बाने क्या हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण तथा पूर्ति और पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री बंसन्त साठे) : (क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) : सशोधित निर्देश-पदों के बारे में सम्बन्धित प्रेम सगटनो/संस्थाओं से सुझाव मागे गए हैं। निर्णय सुझावों पर विचार करने के बाद लिया जाएगा ।

### Proposal to reduce Voting Age to 18 Years

\*7. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:

SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to reduce the voting age to 18 from the present 21;